DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON

MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#03

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE THREE

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
WRITER, ARTIST

MIKE SPICER
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

COVERS
DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER
TAURIN CLARKE
ORLANDO AROCENA
MATÍAS BERGARA
NICK DRAGOTTA & PATRICIO DELPECHE

SEAN MACKIEWICZ & JONATHAN MANNING
EDITORS

ANDRES JUAREZ
PUBLICATION DESIGN

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CARLY, PLEASE--

HOW DID HE DIE? WHAT HAPPENED?

AH, KIDDO...

TELL ME EVERYTHING.

HE--I KNOW THIS SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT...HE WAS CRUSHED BY A GIANT... ROBOT.

WHAT?

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO PUT IT. IT GRABBED HIM AND JUST--

WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?!

I--

WAS IT RED? AND GREY? DID IT TURN INTO A PLANE?

CARLY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?! WHAT DID YOU SEE?!

I SAW HIM. I SAW HIM WAKE UP AND--

WERE YOU WITH SPIKE? IS MY BOY OKAY?!

HE--

CRASH

STREETEATER

BAM BAM BAM

GET BEHIND ME!

CLIP

TOSS

G-GET BACK!

YOU HEARD THE LADY!

BACK UP, LASER-FREAK!

CLIFFJUMPER?

I SAW YOU DRIVING AWAY, AND... I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE GOOD. I'M GLAD I DID--

GET AWAY.

UH--

BOOM

MR. WITWICKY, STOP!

SMASH

FWUMP

OW!

I GOT YOU, COME ON!

BUT--

CARLY, LET'S GO!

MURDER FALCON

I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WOULD BE **FIXED** BY NOW!

WE HAVE ALL THE ENERGON WE NEED, BUT THE RAW MATERIALS OF THIS WORLD ARE STILL LACKING IN ORDER TO BRING CYBERTRONIAN TECHNOLOGY TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

AGHHH! WHAT ABOUT THE METALS FROM THE PLANT? WE TOOK SO MUCH BACK WITH US!

THEY DO NOT HAVE THE ADVANCED COMPOUND STRUCTURE NEEDED TO FIX TELETRAAN 1.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OTHER MATERIALS ON THIS PLANET COME CLOSE, BUT WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT THEM OUT.

MEGATRON WOULD HAVE--

SLAP

I TOLD YOU! DO! **NOT!** SAY! HIS! NAME!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT IS IT?

A PRIORITY MESSAGE FROM LASERBEAK. THEY FOUND AN AUTOBOT.

SKYWARP!

WHAT NOW?

sippp

I'M BUSY! **DEAL** WITH THIS!

SCREEEEEEEEEEEE

POLICE

WHY ARE WE BACK HERE?

QUAK

I'VE TRIED USING THE PHONE. TRIED THE INTERNET. RADIO. NONE OF IT WORKS. THEY MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL JAMMING TECH.

WE'RE TOTALLY CUT OFF.

CREAKK

THAT MEANS WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS FROM SOMEWHERE.

SPARKY.

DANNY. YOU BEEN HEARING THESE EXPLOSIONS AROUND TOWN?

BEEN HEARING 'EM ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY'S ON EDGE.

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE UNDER ATTACK. AND I THINK THEY'VE GOT MY SON.

RUF

WAY AHEAD OF YOU, BROTHER.

I *TOLD* YOU GUYS! METAL MEN! *BIG* METAL MEN!

MR. WITWIC-- *SPARKY*, I... I DON'T THINK THEY'RE ALL BAD.

CARLY, LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. THEY KILLED YOUR *DAD*.

BUT SPIKE AND I RAN INTO ONES THAT SEEMED TO WANT TO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING GOOD.

I'VE BEEN IN *WAR*, CARLY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE TEAM THEY'RE ON, OR WHAT GLORIOUS CAUSE THEY FIGHT FOR. WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTS, PEOPLE DIE.

I THINK WE MAY HAVE GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT.

TOOK ME A WHILE TO DEAL WITH BIRDIE. BUT I PROMISE, I'M A GOOD GU--

EVERYBODY DOWN!

GUK

BHUDDABHUDDABHUDDA

SHRAKKKTTT

0927

BAR

WHAT THE HECK?! AGAIN??

PLEASE STOP! I *KNOW* HIM!

THANKS FOR STARTING THE JOB FOR US!

BLAM

THE RED GUY CALLED IN REINFORCEMENTS!

AAAA

DAMN, STARSCREAM WAS RIGHT! THIS IS A BLAST!

WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HEAVIER WEAPONRY! COME WITH ME!

LOOK OUT!

VFW

BOOM!

PREPARE FOR THE BLACK, INSECT.

OH, MAN--

TIM

STOP!

PLEASE! DON'T DO IT!

WAIT-- ARE YOU TRYING TO...

CARLY, GET OUTTA HERE!!

PROTECT HIM?

HAHA HAHA

COOL.

GET AWAY FROM THEM!!!

SKREE UNK

KHEE KHA

KEE KOKA

GET TO COVER, SPIKE!

THIS IS A FIGHT I MUST WAGE MYSELF!

ZWAP

ZWAP

ZWAP

SELF-RIGHTEOUS SLIME!

POM

POM

TELE

GRP

PORT!

BOOM

NO!

SHRAKKK

BOOM

BREEEE

WHO

BOOM

YOU'VE FOUGHT HARD, SKYWARP.

LET US BE DONE NOW.

NOW!

AGH!

AGHHH!

BY THE SOUL OF THE FALLEN! THEY'RE NOT JUST WEAK! THEY'RE STUPID!

BOOM

OPTIMUS!!!

JUST LIKE YOU.

OPTIMUS, HANG ON!
POUR IT ON! BOTH OF 'EM!
BRAAP
BRAAP
AKKABEAK

SPAK

SPIKE, NO!

WAIT...

SPIKE?

HOLD YOUR FIRE! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

SPARKY, WHAT--?

FIRST HIM. THEN Y--

GRAHHHHHHH

FUMP

YOUR KIND HAVE PLAYED WITH THIS PLANET **ENOUGH.**

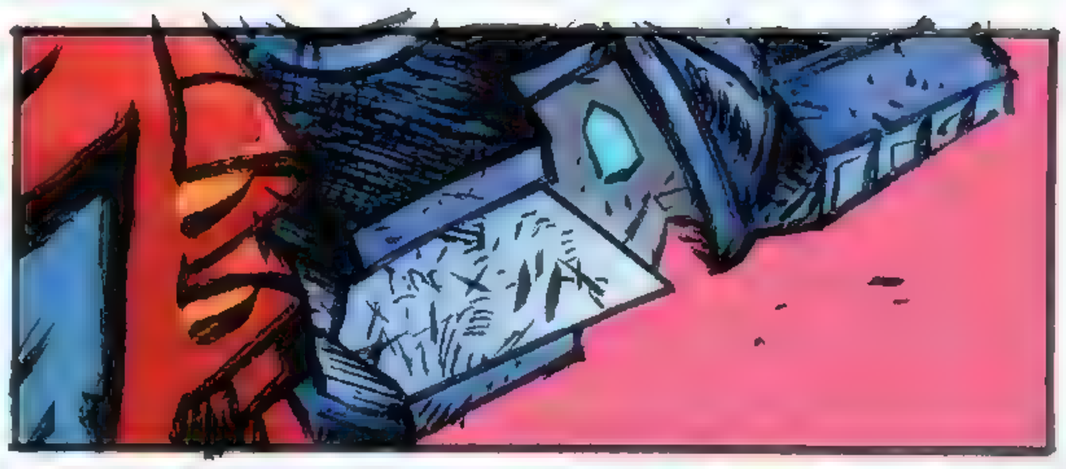
GRPPP

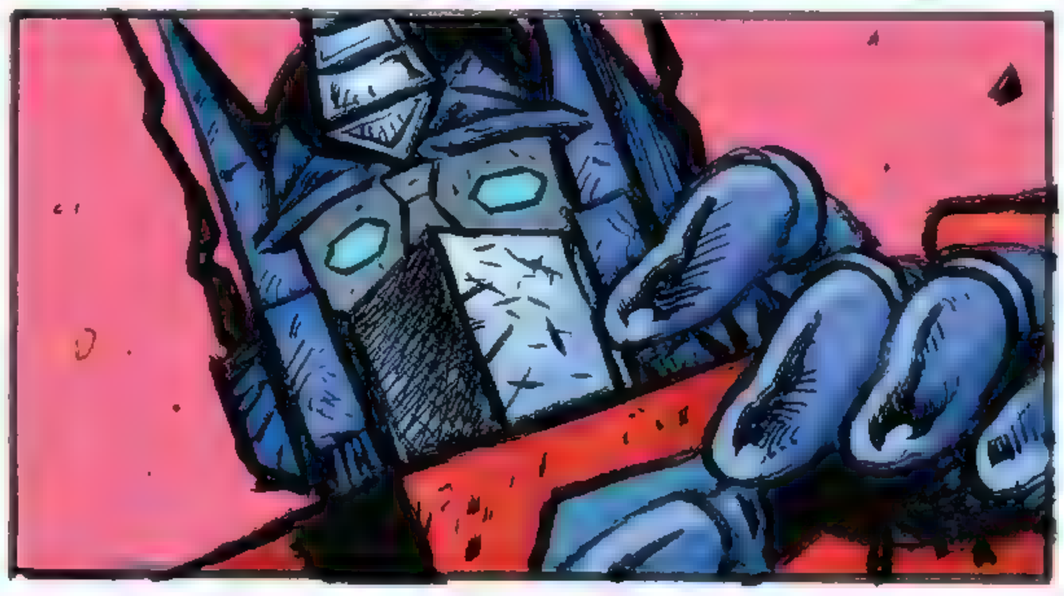
SLAP

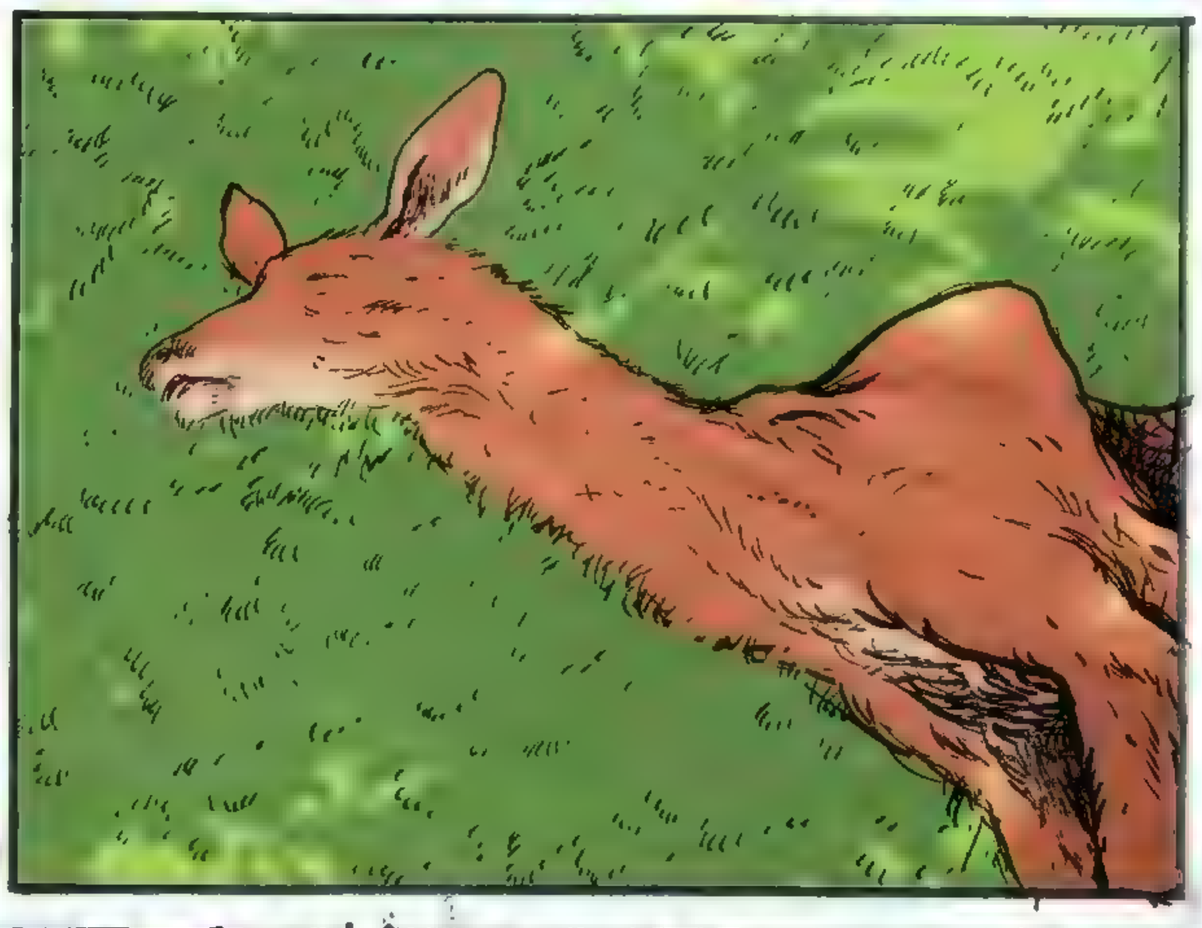
I WILL HAVE NO MORE OF IT!

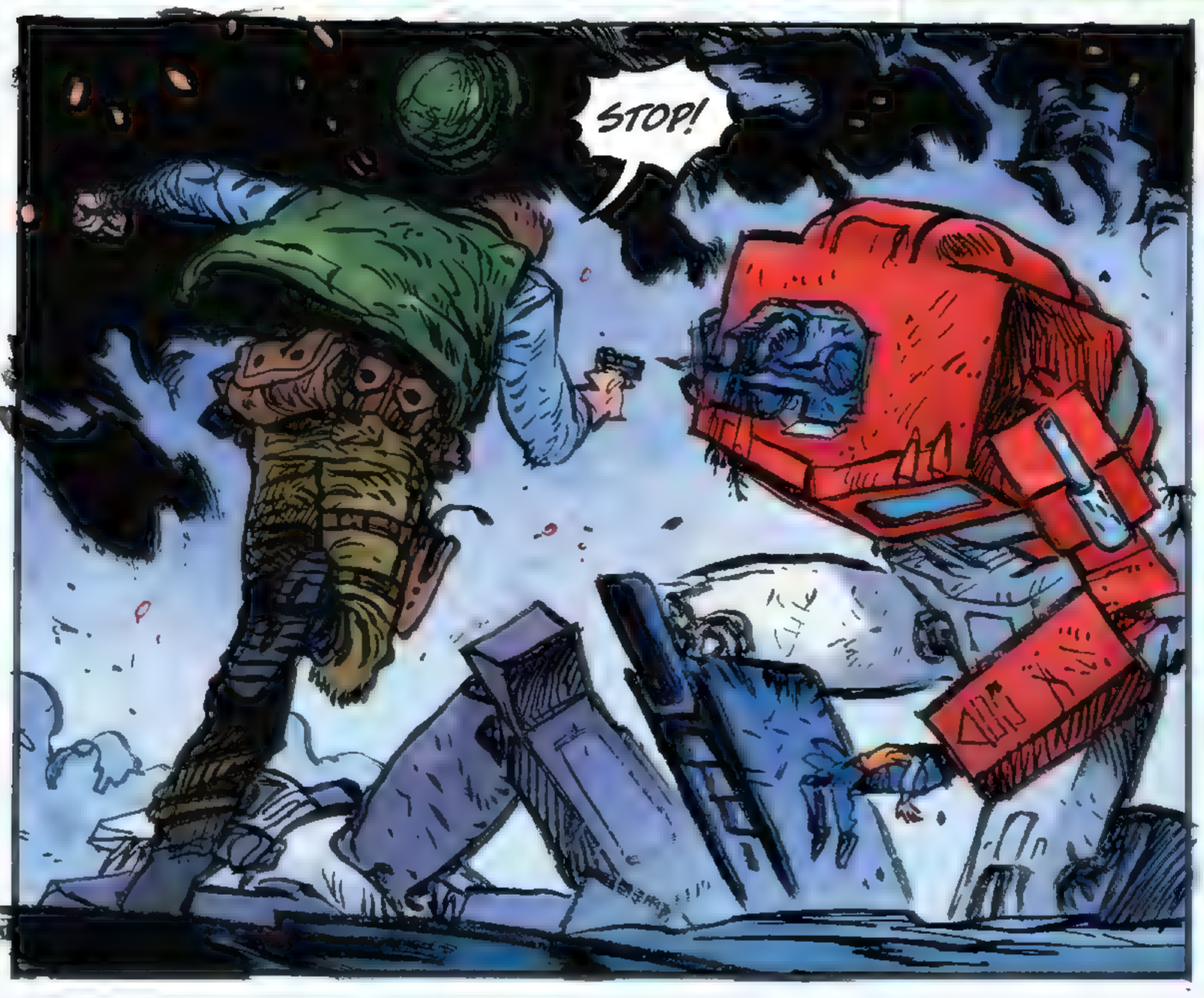
ZWAP ZWAPZWAPZWAP

HKKK-








STOP!

DON'T YOU TOUCH HIM!
DON'T YOU TOUCH MY SON!

KHA KO KHA

COME WITH ME.

I'M GOING TO SAVE YOUR BOY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SEND LETTERS TO TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Hey, gang! Welcome back to the Transformers letters column. This is Jonathan. Man, you thought the Optimus clothesline/suplex combo ruled? How about Optimus bashing Skywarp with his own severed freaking arm?! Can things get crazier?! Yes, they can. They will.

Hey, this is Dan. Truly, I wish there was more to say, but the pages you just read really did the job for me. That sequence was insanely fun to draw! Let's get to some letters!

PS: Stick around after the letters column for a sneak preview of COBRA COMMANDER #1! The Energon Universe expands!

Hello, Transformers Team!

I've been a fan of the Transformers since watching the Robots in Disguise cartoon from 2001. I read both IDW continuities, so naturally, I was excited to hear a new series was going to be published from Skybound.

And I gotta say, I love what I've seen in Issue 1! While we do a familiar set-up similar to the classic cartoon, we naturally got that Daniel Warren Johnson gut punch from stuff like Do A Powerbomb! I definitely wasn't expecting Bumblebee and Jetfire to get killed (especially because Jetfire's always been one of my favs.)

Daniel, you truly are a master of the gut punch. I've probably said "gut punch" in every other email. This series just hurts so good.

I also think it's a great touch having Spike sympathize with Optimus by seeing him mourn the loss of Bumblebee, no doubt reminding him of the pain he's still feeling from Jimmy's death. It's great characterization realized by the artwork.

There's also a fun little question about why we haven't seen Megatron yet. I'm looking forward to seeing how this will play out in future issues. Especially because I'm curious to see if you guys are gonna stick to the G1 cast, or if you're going to pull some obscure characters like Deathsaurus or

Team Bullet Train.

You're asking all the right questions, Kevan! Gotta keep reading to find out!

All in all, it seems like we're in for a good time for this latest comic outing from the Robots in Disguise.

Sincerely,

Kevan Lago

Thanks for your kind words, Kevan! Maybe we can find some room for PREDAKING? Who knows!

I've been a transformers fan since I was a small child in the mid 90s, introduced to it by my mom was a comic and cartoonhead. Over the years as I've grown and had kids of my own, Transformers has become something very important to me, and I constantly find myself digging through every old and out of print comic I can find. Thematically the ongoing struggle endemic to IF stories feels timeless and relatable at any stage of life.

Despite this, Transformers is something that's a bit hard to share with others due to how complicated it can be, which brings me to Daniel Warren Johnson's issue #1. I had never read a DWJ comic before, but now I'm sure I'll be hunting them down, because he clearly understands the heart of it all and managed to pack in the action and emotion necessary to round out a good Transformers story in such a small amount of pagetime. I can tell this run is going to be something special and comes from a place of passion, and it means a lot to me to see that love poured into this project. Excited to see where the story goes and hope you'll all include some more overlooked characters as it goes on (if you bring in someone like King Atlas or Geosensus I'll love you guys forever).

Thank you for the kind words, Lex! We hope this should be the perfect entry point for anyone interested in Transformers, and definitely for anyone who's new to the franchise! Not only is this a great Transformers

comic, it's just an awesome COMIC. And we're excited to see fans of Daniel and Mike's work be introduced to this timeless world, and for fans of Transformers to go explore Daniel and Mike's superb catalogue!

Regards, Lex

Comics can be very hard to make, Lex, so I try to pick projects that will keep me inspired and hungry to continue to get better at this craft. TRANSFORMERS came along at the perfect time, where I needed a change of pace from my creator owned work. It's great to be here.

Hello!

Firstly, I'd like to say that the first issue of the comic does a great job at setting the tone and establishing (what I believe to be) the core characters. Can't wait to read more!

Secondly, my favorite moment was definitely Optimus mourning over Bumblebee's corpse with Spike looking on with sympathy. And then, without hesitation, helps Optimus by pushing his ion blaster towards the pinned autobot. Cybertronian/human interactions and relationships are something that I'm always happy to see. To paraphrase something Bob Budiansky once said, what's the point of the transformers fighting on earth if they aren't going to interact with humans? I think there's a lot of untapped potential for human/cybertronian stories and I'm glad that your tapping into that. I'm looking forward to see what happens next!
From, Cooper Klebba

So happy you enjoyed issue #1, Cooper! And glad that Cybertronian-human dynamic is shining through. The "human" element of Optimus Prime especially is so crucial to the emotional weight of these characters. And hey, if anyone can make us care about the emotional wellbeing of an 18-wheeler, it's Daniel!

Damn right!

Dear Transformers Team,

Who knew I needed Optimus Prime clotheslining Starscream in my life? Daniel Warren Johnson, apparently. Then to follow that up with a suplex and a super kick to the back for good measure? Johnson's mission statement for the Energon Universe is loud and clear: It's No Holds Barred and I am here for it! Spike and Carly pushing with their whole bodies to get Optimus his blaster was another small, but awesome touch. Digging this initial line up of bots, as well (Skywarp, yes!). Looking forward to seeing where the story goes from here.

Christmas truly came early this year with that clothesline/suplex combo.

One of these days Jetfire will live up to his potential... or maybe just live

One day… one day…

Brian Thomer

Glad to see we both love Skywarp, Brian! I have PLANS for this guy!

Thanks for writing in, folks! Bet you can't guess what Optimus does in issue #4! Until then, make sure you pick up DUKE #1 this month (December 27th!) to see where our favorite grunt wound up after TRANSFORMERS #2. And to tide you over til then, go check out the COBRA COMMANDER #1 preview. It's right over there, just flip the next page!

-Jonathan

I recently got to read DUKE #1! Josh is writing the crap out of it, and Tom is doing something special with his lines in this book. Please check it out! I recently got back from NYCC, and it was awesome to see so many people in person who dug TF #1. You're all the best. I'm going to get going and keep plugging away at the art on issue 4! (I took a 5 minute break to write to you here) Blessings to everyone during the holiday season!

-DWJ

THE COBRA THREAT BEGINS HERE

COBRA COMMANDER

Red-hot writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (*Superman*, *DUKE*) and **ANDREA MILANA** (*Impact Winter: Rook*) introduce the best, and worst, humanity has to offer. **COBRA COMMANDER** Enters the Energon Universe **JANUARY 2024**!

PRE-ORDER ISSUE #1 NOW!

WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

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UH, WHAT'LL BE, STRANGER?

I HAVE NEED OF A VEHICLE.

SSSPEAK NOW IF YOU CAN BE OF ASSSISTANCE.

HA! HOW THE HELL YOU GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WITHOUT A TRUCK, BUDDY?!

AND WHAT'S WITH THE *LISP?*

SMACK

DANG *CIRCUS* IS IN TOWN, AND NO ONE TOLD US, BOYS.

GOOD LUCK! IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

YOUR VEHICLE WILL DO NICELY.

NOW WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHAT YA GOT THERE, WEIRDO?

THAT SOME KIND OF *TOY?*

NO MAN'S LAND

REST STOP AND PUB

DRUNK?

ZZZRTTRUKTKTK

AHHHHHHHH

HEY, JIMMY, YOU FORGOT TO PAY, DAMMIT.

NO MAN'S LAND
REST STOP AND PUB

DRINK?

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT.

THAT SONOFA... HIS TRUCK IS GONE...

OH, JESUS...

WHAT...?

FFFF

RATED **T** / TEEN

image